ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TREASURER, SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

OF THE

TOWN OF LACONIA,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877.

LACONIA, N. H.
PRINTED AT THE "DEMOCRAT AND NEWS" OFFICE.
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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1st, 1877.

Samuel M. Doe, Treasurer, in account with the town of Laconia.

RECEIPTS.

Cash of W. L. Melcher, former Treasurer,	$2,411 07
" H. O. Heywood, Collector 1875,	1,844 00
" J. L. Dixon, " 1875,	1,321 88
" B. M. Sanborn, " 1876,	14,897 00
" A. D. Plummer, " 1876,	2,730 00
" S. F. Noble, " 1876,	1,653 00
" From notes,	2,825 00
" Insurance tax,	20 63
" Railroad tax,	837 32
" Savings Bank tax,	3,907 71
" Literary fund,	270 45
D. Robinson, license for show,	1 00
	$32,719 06

EXPENDITURES.

Paid State Tax,	$3,320 00	
" County tax,	4,788 06	
		$8,108 06
Paid L. T. Weeks, Overseer of Poor,	$200 00	
" Geo. L. Mead, " "	329 55	
" A. J. Thompson, med. aid to C. C. Rowe,	3 75	
" Geo. L. Mead, for Mary Buzzell at Insane Asylum,	55 88	
		$589 18
Paid Town of Gilford,		$500 00

SCHOOL ORDERS.

Paid District No. 1,	$3,522 00
" " " 2,	703 00
" " " 3,	257 00
" " " 4,	119 00
" " " 5,	143 00
	$4,744 00

SCHOOL HOUSE TAXES.

Paid District No. 1,	$500 00
" " " 2,	200 00

Paid District No. 3,	270 00
	$970 00

PAID NOTES AND INTEREST.

N. R. Swain, note and interest,	$696 09
J. R. Sawyer, " "	1,744 02
O. N. Peavey, " "	196 38
Irene Smith, interest,	30 00
	$2,666 49

BREAKING ROADS, MARCH AND APRIL, 1876.

District No. 1,	$37 00
" " 2,	133 70
" " 3,	102 30
" " 4,	59 30
" " 5,	155 00
" " 6,	45 00
" " 7,	72 70
" " 8,	82 40
" " 9,	67 00
" " 10,	34 40
" " 11,	56 80
" " 12,	30 30
" " 13,	42 30

GILFORD SIDE.

District No. 1,	$97 45
" " 2,	20 55
" " 32,	26 00
" " 33,	21 70
	$1,083 90

It will be seen that the above bills are much larger than usual for those months, but are owing to the unusual severity of the storms at that time.

BREAKING ROADS, WINTER OF 1876 AND 1877.

District No. 1,	$112 45
" " 2,	154 74
" " 4,	126 40
" " 5,	218 70
" " 6,	79 50

District No. 7,	156 40
" " 8,	155 15
" " 9,	169 25
" " 10,	66 10
" " 11,	77 40
" " 12,	53 00
" " 13,	102 30

GILFORD SIDE.

District No. 1,	$134 20
" " 2,	81 24
" " 32,	41 70
" " 33,	58 93
	$1,787 45

HIGHWAYS IN SUMMER OF 1876.

District No. 1,	$575 61
" " 2,	580 38
" " 3,	492 55
" " 4,	106 00
" " 5,	127 41
" " 6,	39 07
" " 7,	65 00
" " 8,	48 57
" " 9,	32 74
" " 10,	12 77
" " 11,	14 85
" " 12,	22 46
" " 13,	73 09

GILFORD SIDE.

District No. 1,	$372 89
" " 2,	473 71
" " 32,	134 66
" " 33,	339 92
	$3,511 68

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

Paid G. Cook & Co., for plank, etc., for bridge,	$10 50
" S. S. Jewett, for getting out curb stones,	11 00
" W. H. & S. S. Jewett, for building new road,	272 00
" Thompson & Doe, concrete,	100 00

Paid John Edwards, labor and stone for culverts,	53 77
" J. F. Merrill, "	29 80
" Thompson & Doe, concrete,	200 89
" E. Harrington, for stone and drawing,	19 00
" J. Flanders, stone work,	39 83
" J. G. Webster, stone work on culvert,	10 00
" Geo. Sleeper and W. H. Jewett, balance for new road,	50 00
" W. H. & S. S. Jewett, for covering stones, culverts and bank wall, and labor,	100 00
" C. W. Durrell, culverts and bridges,	67 93
" L. W. True, lumber, etc.,	3 40
" A. Frazier, covering stone, etc.,	45 75
" G. Cook & Co., lumber for bridges,	132 80
" J. S. Howe, covering stones, etc.,	57 60
" Ford & Flanders, stone work,	72 30
" A. G. Folsom, gravel for Oak St. in 1875,	8 50
" Mike Scott, work on bridges and culverts,	22 50
" A. J. Farrar, stone for culverts,	49 45
" J. J. Sanborn, work and lumber on Weirs bridge,	251 75
" T. W. Longee, culvert stone,	3 00
" John Gray, culvert stone and plank,	55 66
" Ranlet Mfg. Co., lumber, cinders, castings, labor, etc.,	79 19
" J. S. Collins, labor on Weirs road,	83 10
	1,829 72

PAID TOWN OFFICERS.

F. W. Reeves, services as Selectman Mar. 1st to 14th, 1876,	$30 00
J. L. Moore, " " " "	27 00
D. A. Tilton, services as auditor Mar. 1, 1876,	2 00
S. M. Doe, " " "	2 00
L. R. Weeks, " " "	2 00
F. H. Davis, services as Selectman Mar. 1st to 14th, 1876,	26 25
S. E. Dockham, " " Mar. 13 to July 13, 1876,	93 25
Geo. A. Hatch, services as Town Clerk,	75 00
B. M. Sanborn, services as Collector for 1876,	350 00
Geo. L. Mead, services as Overseer of poor to Mar. 1st,	55 00
Geo. L. Mead, services as Selectman to Mar. 1st,	212 50
S. S. Wiggin, " " "	237 50
S. F. Noble, services as Collector for 1876,	50 00
King S. Hall, services as Supt. School Committee,	25 25

Mrs. J. S. Wadleigh, services as Supt. School Committee,	20 00
A. D. Plummer, services as Collector, 1876,	100 00
S. M. Doe, services as Town Treasurer,	75 00
	$1,382 75

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Paid Treasurer of Laconia Fire Precinct amount for Torrent Company,	$270 00
" Belknap Co. Commissioners, services in road case, A. Thompson vs. Laconia,	46 00
" John Gray, for watering trough,	3 00
" F. W. Reeves, for Republican Press Association,	15 00
" F. W. Reeves, referee in Dolloff case 1875,	5 00
" O. A. J. Vaughan, printing reports, notices, etc.,	71 50
" W. S. Davis, lighting streeet lights at Lake Village,	8 00
" Morrill & Silsby, for books,	44 65
" J. L. Odell, for alcohol for street lights at L. Village,	60
" B., C. & M. Railroad, freight on naptha,	2 22
" J. M. Peppard, ladder for street lights at L. Village,	1 00
" C. J. Smith and others, special police Mar. 14 and 15, '76,	60 00
" Globe Gas light Co., naptha for street lights at L. Vill.,	5 37
" O. A. J. Vaughan's estate, for printing blanks,	11 50
" J. Q. A. Swain, services as police in 1875,	4 00
" G. Gammon, damage in widening School St. in 1874,	2 00
" S. Goodwin, work on Common,	1 00
" Geo. A. Martin, lighting and washing street lights,	22 50
" G. H. Moulton, lighting St. lights in Lake Village in April and May,	14 00
" A. G. Folsom, use of Hall one year to April 1st, 1876,	60 00
" J. S. Jewett, land damage,	125 00
" S. S. Wiggin, for gas in March, April, May and June,	87 74
" N. Johnson, Jr., books for schools,	7 36
" D. C. Batchelder, repairing watering trough,	2 00
" J. S. Whitten and others, land damage,	5 00
" Geo. H. Moulton, for lighting St. lights in L. Village, and for police services,	16 50
" J. R. Champlin, for lamp posts and lamps for same, freight and labor setting same,	195 75
" J. P. Barnum, for painting and sanding canal bridge,	6 95
" Andrews & Champlin for street signs,	38 25

Paid Morrill & Silsby, for record book,	2 50
" J. R. Champlin, for labor on street lamps,	10 00
" E. E. Cutting, for services as police,	15 00
" D. H. Lewis, services as police July 3d and 4th,	5 00
" C. J. Smith, " " " "	5 00
" C. Woodburn, " " " "	3 00
" G. A. Martin, lighting St. lights June, July, August,	24 00
" Laconia Gas Co., gas for street lights " "	39 60
" Andrews & Champlin, for guide boards, &c.,	37 21
" Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1, year ending Sept. 30, '76,	60 00
" Torrent Engine Co. No. 2, to Nov. 1, '76,	120 00
" Reliance Hose Co., to Nov. 1, '76,	45 00
" Laconia Steamer Co., to Nov. 1, '76,	45 00
" W. M. Kendall, Jr., printing checklists and blanks,	18 45
" M. C. Lamprey, damage to sleigh,	3 00
" A. C. Leavitt, wood for selectmen's room,	1 63
" Niagara Co. No. 1, Lake Village,	90 00
" " " " 5, "	90 00
" J. H. Tilton & Co., for 2 scrapers, spikes, oils, &c.,	63 08
" J. P. Boodey, for examining records,	2 40
" L. S. Perley, surveying road,	3 00
" G. A. Martin, lighting street lights, September, October, November and December,	37 50
" Laconia Gas Co., gas for 4 months, street lights,	140 00
" J. L. Meserve, sharpening tools,	2 94
" L. C. Dimond, labor on watering trough,	19 26
" J. O. Cotton, damage to sleigh,	3 00
" Laconia Gas Co., gas for street lights in January,	40 00
" H. H. Eastman, loss and damage to sheep by dogs,	20 00
" C. H. Rowe, damage to carriage,	5 00
" J. R. Smith, damage to sheep, 1875,	5 00
" S. B. Cole, for board of old Board of Selectmen from March 1st to 14th, 1876,	7 75
" H. O. Hayward, for taxes upon property sold by him and bought by town,	62 62
" Geo. A. Hatch, for distributing Constitutional Convention pamphlets,	5 00
" J. S. Howe, horse hire for Selectmen in 1876 and 1877,	29 25
" J. S. Howe, keeping for old board of Selectmen,	3 00
" A. J. Hart, services as police,	100 00

Paid N. Johnson, Jr., for surveyors' books,	2 50
" L. G. Morgan, watering trough,	3 00
" Belknap Savings Bank, rent of office,	60 00
" Geo. A. Hatch, pens, pencils, ink, etc.,	2 20
" S. W. Sanders, repairing ram at watering trough,	2 25
" A. J. Farrar, services as police,	9 25
" A. C. Leavitt, for wood and getting same in,	2 13
" Laconia Gas Co., gas for street lights,	32 50
" E. Hale, for lighting street lights,	20 00
" Geo. L. Mead, cash paid out as Overseer of poor,	5 50
" Geo. L. Mead, use of horse and cash paid as Selectman,	11 35
" S. S. Wiggin, cash paid as Selectman,	17 00
" H. W. Swazey, for trucking in 1875,	2 00
	$2,464 66

EXPENSES OF INVESTIGATING INCENDIARY FIRES, AND SPECIAL POLICE IN SAME.

Paid C. J. Smith, special police,	$50 00
" J. Q. A. Swain, special police,	50 00
" J. L. Eaton, special police,	24 00
" John Sanborn, special police,	26 00
" Moses Sargent, as detective and expenses,	236 00
" C. J. Smith, special police,	30 00
" T. J. Whipple, services and expenses,	128 04
" E. P. Jewell, services, in part,	55 88
" A. J. Hart, services and cash paid out,	119 00
" N. Johnson, Jr., services,	86 00
	$804 92

Nearly if not all of the above bills we expect will be repaid the town at the next term of Court by the County of Belknap. If not assumed by the County the selectmen hold a citizen's guarantee for the same.

RECAPITULATION

Total Receipts,		$32,719 06

DISBURSEMENTS.

State tax,	$3,320 00
County tax,	4,788 06
Pauper bills,	589 18
Gilford debt,	500 00

Notes and interest,	2,666 49	
Breaking roads,	2,871 36	
School orders,	4,744 00	
School house taxes,	970 00	
Highways,	3,511 68	
Highways and bridges,	1,829 72	
Town officers,	1,382 75	
Current expenses,	2,464 66	
Incendiary fires,	804 92	
Cash in treasury March 1, 1877,	2,276 24	
		$32,719 06

S. M. DOE, Treasurer.

PAUPER ACCOUNT.

Town of Laconia in account with Geo. L. Mead, Overseer of the Poor, to March 1, 1877.

Cash received from Belknap County,		$192 49

WHICH IS ACCOUNTED FOR AS FOLLOWS:

Paid Reform School bills,	$112 00	
" E. G. Wilson, aid to Goodwin child,	5 50	
" D. F. Moore, aid to E. Brown,	11 00	
" Geo. L. Mead, aid to E. Brown,	9 66	
" D. F. Moore and others, aid to paupers,	54 33	
		$192 49
Cash received of L. T. Weeks, former Overseer,	$43 23	
" " town,	385 43	
		$428 66

WHICH IS ACCOUNTED FOR AS FOLLOWS:

Paid Asylum for Insane, for Mary Buzzell,	$55 88
" Belknap County farm, for Mrs. S. Staples,	52 00
" Dr. D. F. Moore, med. aid to S. C. Baldwin,	3 00
" " " " G. W. T. Rollins,	5 00
" Dr. E. G. Wilson, med. aid to S. C. Baldwin,	59 05
" Dr. D. B. Nelson, med. aid to Isaac Smith,	63 00
" Belknap County farm, aid to Isaac Smith,	76 40
" Geo. L. Mead, aid to S. C. Baldwin,	37 40
" J. H. Tilton & Co., aid to S. C. Baldwin,	4 50
" " " " C. C. Rowe,	5 50
" A. C. Leavitt, aid to S. C. Baldwin,	6 50
" Dr. T. S. Foster, aid to pauper,	1 00

Paid W. E. Foster, medicine for C. C. Rowe,	10 60	
" J. F. Prescott, aid to pauper, 1875,	3 25	
" G. L. Mead, aid to C. C. Rowe,	22 75	
Cash on hand,	22 83	
		$428 66

In the settlement of the account of L. T. Weeks as overseer of the poor I found that he had drawn from the treasury,		$200 00
He has been allowed for services,	$ 20 00	
Expenses for paupers,	136 77	
Cash received from his estate,	43 23	
		200 00

GEO. L. MEAD, Overseer of Poor.

FINANCIAL COTDITION OF THE TOWN OF LACONIA, MARCH 1ST, 1877.

ASSETS.

H. O. Heywood, tax list, 1875,	$ 17 10
S. F. Noble, do., 1876,	117 78
A. D. Plummer, do.,	428 92
B. M. Sanborn, do.,	2,211 16
Due from town of Gilford as per last report,	504 46
Cash in hands of overseer of poor,	22 83
Due from Albert Thompson for amount paid county commissioners on road case,	46 00
Due from old town for notes paid,	2,626 47
" county or guarantee on incendiary fires,	804 92
" that portion of town annexed to Gilford (act of July 13, 1876),	2,000 00
Cash in hands of treasurer,	2,276 24
	$11,055 88

LIABILITIES.

Due on notes,	$3,967 67	
Due on Gilford debt tax,	1,737 00	
Due E. M. Avery, land damage,	200 00	
		$5,904 67
Assets over and above liabilities;		$5,151 21

TOWN OF LACONIA IN ACCOUNT WITH THE OLD TOWN.

By cash paid on nates of old town,	$2,666 49

Interest on same to March 1st, 1877,	50 00	
		$2,716 49

CONTRA.

To cash on hand as per last report,	$90 02	
		$90 02
Amount due new town,		$2,626 47

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF OLD TOWN, MARCH 1ST, 1877.

LIABILITIES.

Notes and interest,		$3,851 90
Due new town for notes paid by renewal,	$2,425 00	
Cash paid on notes of old town by new town,	241 49	
Interest on same to March 1st,	50 00	
	$2,716 49	
Less cash as per last report,	90 02	
		$2,626 47
		$6,478 37

ASSETS.

Due from S. C. Robinson's collector's list, 1874,	$ 79 31	
" T. L. Grant's " " 1870,	565 63	
" M. H. Johnson, note and interest,	90 78	
" 57 shares B., C. & M. R. R. stock,	570 00	
		$1,305 72
Liabilities over assets,		$5,172 65

GILFORD DEBT STATEMENT.

Amount raised in 1875,	$4,000 00	
" " 1876,	2,500 00	
		$6,500 00
Amount paid town of Gilford, 1875,	$3,700 00	
" " " 1876,	500 00	
Cash in hands of treasurer,	1,737 00	
Due on collector's list, 1876,	563 00	
		$6,500 00

S. S. WIGGIN, } Selectmen of
GEO. L. MEAD, } Laconia.

We have examined the foregoing accounts and find them correctly cast and properly vouched.

S. C. ROBINSON, } Auditors.
N. JOHNSON, Jr., }

SCHOOL REPORT.

The schools in district number one have been working under the graded system during a second year; the results attained in the first year's experience have been fully sustained and in interest shown by pupils there has been an improvement. This is thought to be due to a growing spirit of competition among the pupils resulting from a desire to retain places in their respective classes and to avoid the need of going into lower classes on account of failure to pass examinations.

Eight schools have been maintained and with a prospective revival of business and an increasing population the number certainly cannot be reduced without serious disadvantage to the pupils; the plan of grading, now followed, to be complete requires another school on the south side of the river and with another school the wants of the district would be accommodated for a long time to come. The system of grading has been improved by the experience both of teachers and the Board of Education; where it was imperfect by reason of insufficient experience on the part of its framers it has been changed as seemed best to teachers and Board of Education and by careful observation of the various needs of the classes in the different schools a system of grading will eventually be attained that can be confidently depended upon and by the careful observance of which our pupils can be brought along through our different grades and made thorough scholars in common English studies. The object of the Board of Education has been thoroughness, even at the expense of time, and though changes still remain to be made they feel that a good work has been done in the district by grading the schools.

The Board of Education feel the need of increasing the number of school weeks in the year and though this would require an extra outlay of a little more than one hundred dollars per week (average) yet it is in their judgment desirable to increase the number of school weeks from the number of the past year, thirty-two, to thirty-six at least.

The parents of children cannot be too strongly urged to insist on a constant attendance on the schools; the system of grading, in order to be successful, demands of the pupil attendance on each recitation and it is easy for the pupil to make progress if present at each recitation and frees him from the discouragement that he naturally feels when compelled to make up studies lost by absences

and to keep along with his class besides; the interest of the pupil too is better sustained if the parents show sufficient care and attention to require constant attendance.

The evil of tardiness is still a great one and parents are urged to encourage habits of promptness and punctuality on their children; a little care will often save a pupil a tardy mark. The list of tardiness is not the long one that it was under the old system in the district but is still too long and it is in the hands of parents in the district to lessen still further the number. We urge parents to visit the schools often; to become familiar with the work done and to see with their own eyes what progress their children are making; in this way they can perhaps discover faults injurious to the schools that escape the observation of the Board of Education. The question of making the high school an English high school has engaged the attention of the Board and though no definite conclusion has been reached it is thought by the Board that such a school may not be required in our district for the present and that the study of the languages may have to be postponed until our population becomes greater. The Board wish the hearty co-operation of parents in all points relating to the success of our schools and especially desire to have them impress upon their children the importance of constant and punctual attendance and unflagging interest.

District number two, situated in Lake Village, was annexed to Gilford during the last session of the legislature.

There are only three districts remaining to report. The order has been *fair* in all; progress the same, neither being marked.

The best scholars according to age and advantages were found in the district where there has always been the least money to expend.

The citizens of these districts would soon perceive fruitful results if they would become a little more united and try to quell every discordant element which may arise to the disadvantage of their schools. Let it be written in "letters of gold" that the work of the teacher owes much of its success to the sincere co-operation of parents, without which no school plan can be satisfactorily carried out.

The number of scholars in district No. 1, between five and fifteen years of age, who have not attended any school, as near as the Board of Education could ascertain, is 57.

A statistical table has also been furnished by the Board, in which the spring and fall terms are reckoned as one term under the head of "summer schools." Most of the statistics given are of the fall term. ELLEN E. S. WADLEIGH, School Committee.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

SUMMER SCHOOLS.

Number of District.	Grade of School.	Name of Teacher.	Wages per month.	Length of school in weeks.	Whole number of pupils.	Average attendance.	No. of pupils attending the following studies. Reading.	Spelling.	Penmanship.	Arithmetic.	Geography.	Grammar.	History.	Composition.	Drawing.	Vocal Music.
1	High	Mrs. E. C. Smith,	70 00	22	40	35	20	20		22		22		29		
	South Grammar	Miss Ella N. Moulton,	48 00	22	43	38	43	43	43	43	36	43	7	43	15	
	North Grammar	Mrs. E. E. S. Wadleigh, / Miss Anna M. Stevens,	48 00 / 48 00	22	52	42	52	52	52	52	52	52	52	30	18	
	So. Intermediate	Miss Ella M. Hersey,	40 00	22	44	41	44	44	44	44	44					
	No. Intermediate	Miss Eliza A. Doe,	40 00	22	42	38	42	42	42	42	42	10				
	South Primary	Miss Josephine Maxfield	36 00	22	67	47	67	67	29	13	13					67
	No. 2d Primary	Miss Annie I. Moulton,	40 00	22	42	38	42	42	42	42	42					42
	No. 1st Primary	Miss Sarah D. Knowlton,	36 00	22	49	42	49	45								49
2	Grammar	Miss Carrie E. Baker,	36 00	8	35	27	35	35	35	34	20	28			6	35
	Primary	Miss Mary A. Davis,	32 00	8	50	40	50	50	16	30	15					
3	Ungraded	Miss Etta Payson,	32 00	12	21	14	21	21	10	12	7	1	1			
4	Ungraded	Miss L. Jennie Smith,	22 00	20	15	13	15	15	8	8	8	4				
5	Ungraded	Miss Sarah M. Noyes,	25 00	8	18	13	18	18	14	15	14	3	3			
	Ungraded	Miss Mary F. Tuttle,	28 00	8	19	14	19	19	8	13	10	4	1			

WINTER SCHOOLS.

1	High	Mrs. E. C. Smith,	70 00	10	45	40	21	21		24		25		32		
	South Grammar	Miss Ella N. Moulton,	48 00	10	44	41	44	44	44	44	33	44	11	41	33	
	North Grammar	Miss Anna M. Stevens,	48 00	10	45	41	45	45	45	45	45	45	45		17	
	So. Intermediate	Miss Ella M. Hersey,	40 00	10	48	42	48	48	48	48	48					
	No. Intermediate	Miss Eliza A. Doe,	40 00	10	38	33	38	38	38	38	38	10				
	South Primary	Miss Josephine Maxfield	36 00	10	45	40	45	45		18	18					45
	No. 2d Primary	Miss Annie I. Moulton,	40 00	10	36	32	36	36	36	36	36					36
	No. 1st Primary	Miss Sarah D. Knowlton	36 00	10	44	41	43	43								43
3	Ungraded	Miss Etta Payson,	40 00	15	29	19	29	29	12	24	10	11			10	
5	Ungraded	Mr. B. R. Dearborn,	31 50	9	11	9	11	11	10	9	9	3			6	

In the high school ten pupils studied Latin; six Astronomy; eleven Geometry; twelve Physical Geography; eight Philosophy; and five Algebra.